

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Medical Information from Plovdiv	DATE DISTR.	14 October 1953
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DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

- 25X1 1. The head of the health and medical services at Plovdiv is a physician, responsible to the Ministry of Health in Sofia. He supervises the execution of all health regulations, the use of scarce drugs, the work of the dispensaries, the government hospital, and other medical institutions. Dr. Kostov is the District Head Physician of Plovdiv.
- 25X1 2. For medical purposes, Plovdiv is divided into six districts. Each district has a dispensary, and additional dispensaries are planned because the existing ones are inadequate to cope with the number of patients. With the exception of specialists, each physician is assigned a sub-district of several streets, with about 7,000 residents. The official norm for a physician is 25 patients a day, but each doctor usually receives at least 40.
- 25X1 3. Polyclinic No. 1, the main dispensary of Plovdiv, is located on Aleksandŭr Stamboliyski Street. It has 12 or 13 physicians, five nurses, and three or four clerical employees.
4. Polyclinic No. 2, located on Ivan Vazov Street near the main railroad station, has 15 or 16 physicians and a small hospital with about 20 beds. This clinic deals with internal diseases, ear, nose, and throat, eye, children's diseases, gynecological, and tuberculosis cases, and has its own surgical and X-ray department.
5. Polyclinic No. 3, located near the old bridge (over the Maritsa River), has 11 or 12 physicians. It also treats tuberculosis patients.
6. Polyclinic No. 4, located in the Nadezhda Quarter, has six physicians and two dental practitioners.
7. Polyclinic No. 5, located in the Karshiyaka Quarter, has five or six physicians.
8. Polyclinic No. 6, located in the Ortamezar Quarter, has 11 physicians, including a dental practitioner.

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9. The Government Hospital, located on Gende Hill, has about 1,500 beds. It has all the departments of a modern hospital, including contagious diseases and tuberculosis (60 beds). This hospital is always filled to capacity, especially the tuberculosis ward, which has hundreds of patients on its waiting list. The hospital employs about 150 physicians and is housed in about 20 three- and four-story buildings. Military personnel are admitted when the Military Hospital is full or when the patients need specialized treatment. Dr. Zlatarev is the director of this hospital [redacted]
10. The Military Hospital is the former Catholic Hospital. It has between 600 and 700 beds and has all departments except tuberculosis. The physicians are active Army officers; nurses are civilians, but all other employees are in the Armed Forces. The head of the hospital is a physician with the rank of lieutenant colonel. The hospital is housed in a 3-story group of buildings and serves all military units in the okrug, including Borisovgrad, Karlovo, Asenovgrad, Pazardzhik, and vicinity.
11. The Plovdiv municipality maintains a tuberculosis sanatorium at Stoliponovo, about five kilometers from Plovdiv. It has accommodations for 150 patients, has the latest equipment, and carries out surgical treatment. It is always filled to capacity.
12. A 2-year course for nurses was opened in Plovdiv in 1949. Between 70 and 80 nurses were graduated in 1951, but no further courses have been held.
13. The bacteriological laboratory which was formerly the Kudoglu Dispensary, located on Red Square, employs four or five people and engages in routine blood tests, etc. No research is done and no sera are produced. A special dispensary for tuberculosis patients, equipped with X-ray and pneumothorax equipment, is attached to this laboratory.
14. Blood donations are very much encouraged by the authorities. The two centers are at Polyclinic No. 2 and the Government Hospital. Blood donors are given a premium of 500 leva for one-half liter of blood, and extra ration cards for one kilogram of meat, one kilogram of rice, one kilogram of sugar, eggs, etc.
15. According to regulations, all inhabitants must be inoculated against typhus for three consecutive years; about 70 percent of the population have been inoculated. Physicians in charge of districts are responsible for visiting homes and inoculating all who have failed to report to the dispensaries. BCG inoculations against tuberculosis were started about two years ago. Although these inoculations are compulsory for everyone up to the age of 30, most people are reluctant because they fear they will contract the disease from the treatment. Anti-diphtheria inoculation is compulsory for all children.
16. An epidemic of scarlet fever in September 1952 in Plovdiv caused 170 deaths. No other major epidemics are known to have occurred during the past few years.
17. Drugs of local manufacture are available in sufficient quantities. Antibiotics, which are not manufactured in Bulgaria, are in short supply. Penicillin prescriptions are honored only when signed by three physicians and countersigned by the District Head Physician. Streptomycin is available only in the hospitals. Aureomycin is not available from official sources. Black market prices for antibiotics, mostly of American manufacture, are as follows:

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- a. Streptomycin, 300 leva per gram;
 - b. Penicillin, 100 leva for 500,000 units; and
 - c. Aureomycin, 300 leva for 16 capsules.
18. Medical students graduating from the university are encouraged to become Army physicians, but are not forced to join, except for the normal compulsory service of two years.
 19. Soldiers suffering from tuberculosis are discharged and turned over to civilian health authorities for treatment. They are then examined by an Army physician every six months and ordered to re-enlist when cured.
 20. All physicians up to the age of 60 are considered reserve officers and are issued an Army Reserve Booklet. Physicians under 40 are called up for service for a 1-month period each year; at this time they receive half their usual government salary. The lowest rank of a physician, whether on active or reserve duty, is second lieutenant. Reserve officers (physicians) are promoted automatically every three or four years even if they have no active service or military training to their credit. A physician 50 to 55 years of age, without any military training and without even having been called up for the monthly periods each year, may thus hold the rank of major.
 21. Physicians serving in the reserves are issued an Army booklet, approximately nine by 10 centimeters in size, which has the inscription "Voenna Karta" on the red cover. It has about 16-20 pages of good quality white paper. The first page has the bearer's photograph (3.5 by 4.0 centimeters) on its right upper cover, and the bearer's name, age, address, and rank. The second page contains further personal data, including the Army unit to which he belongs. This is indicated by a code number, "Podelenie No....", and the bearer does not know his unit's denomination or location. When called up for active service, he must present himself at a specified place in the town (school, hospital, etc.) where further instructions are issued. The remaining empty pages of the booklet are used for changes in bearer's address, promotion listings, etc.

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